

May 18, 2010

1400 CST

## **Water Quality Protection Division**

### **Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update**

**Subject:**           **Water Quality Division Update # 13**  
                          **Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico**

**Date:**               May 18, 2010

**Reporting Period:** May 18, 2010 1300 – May 19, 2010 1300

**Situation Status:**

- NOAA forecasts created on 5/17/10 at 2100 CDT for 5/18/10 at 1800 CDT forecasts the main portion of the oil slick to remain southeast of the Mississippi Delta with a portion south of Barataria Bay and another portion moving east towards Florida. Satellite imagery analysis performed by NOAA indicates that the slick extends towards the west past Southwest Pass and to the southeast near the Loop Current. Winds are forecast to be light (5-10 knots) variable in direction over the next few days. The ocean models predict the oil may move in a westward or southwestwardly flow from the source. Additionally, the southern edge of the plume may enter the northeastern edge of the Loop Current.

**Figure 1 NOAA Oil Slick Estimate provided in NOAA situational report for Deepwater Horizon incident**

**Monitoring and Assessment**

- Watershed Management and Monitoring and Watershed Assessment staff are working with REOC Environmental Unit, Region 4, and Headquarters to review the draft unified sampling plan, which currently describes the near shore and offshore dispersant sampling effort (coordinated between R4, R6, and HQ), and includes appendices documenting the R4 beach and sediment QAPP and R6 water and sediment QASP.

- Watershed Management and Monitoring and Watershed Assessment staff attended a conference call with HQ/R4/R6 in which discussion centered on: need for and next steps for additional coordination between R4 and R6 with regards to the baseline (pre-impact) and post-impact sampling designs; need for a early warning protocol in which HQ would share information early on (prior to uploading on website) with R4 and R6 when analysis of sampling data indicates "yellow" or "red" risk stages; and, screening levels under development.
- Watershed Management and Monitoring and Watershed Assessment staff attended a conference call pertaining to the development of pollutant screening levels for human health exposure scenarios (swimmers and workers).
- Continued regular meetings and calls with Region 4, HQ, & REOC.

### Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted.
- EPA Region 6 is providing the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) daily situation report as well as data summaries as they become available.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

### Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

List of CWPPRA projects that may potentially become impacted. The list will be updated as additional information becomes available.

#### Barrier Islands

- PO-27, Chandeleur Islands Marsh Restoration (NMFS Sponsored)
- TE-18, Timbalier Island Planting Demonstration (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-20, Isles Dernieres Restoration East Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-24, Isles Dernieres Restoration Trinity Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-27, Whiskey Island Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-37, New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-45A, Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-48, Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-50 Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-52 Barrier Island Vegetation Demonstration (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-67, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 1 (NMFS sponsored)
- TE-67B, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 2 (NMFS sponsored)

### Headlands

- TE-23, West Belle Pass Headland Restoration (USACE Sponsored)

### Marsh

- MR-09, Delta Wide Crevasses (NMFS sponsored)

## Coastal Habitat Impacts

### Louisiana Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Ongoing coordination and analyses with OW and Region 6 staff and managers regarding the State's coastal protection application for emergency permit authorization from the Corps. The State of Louisiana applied for a Corps of Engineers NOD 20 emergency permit to construct sand barriers in the Chandeleur and Grand Terre Island areas to reduce inland movement of the oil.
- The Corps District requested a list of recommended special permit conditions from each of the resource agencies. In response, Pete Silva, Director of the Office of Water, communicated to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works explaining that it would be premature to propose draft permit conditions until the EPA concerns previously delivered to the Corps are addressed. In the meantime, OW and Regional staff began conceptualizing potential permit conditions and continue to analyze the project impacts.

### National Estuary Programs (NEPs):

- The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) is summarizing baseline data from their ongoing two year bird survey project, which could provide baseline data for NRDA impact assessments. This work includes nesting surveys on barrier shorelines. The program has produced very general fact sheets for the public on chemical dispersants, oil spill cleanup in a marsh environment, and using booms in response to oil spills.

### Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Participation was requested from Region 6 dredged material management and ocean dumping staff today for a toxicity testing discussion with Region 4 today.

### OW Ecological Impact Team:

- Continuing efforts to build upon the combined OW, Region 6, and Region 4 ecological impacts document for use by OW managers, as well on worst case scenarios and ecological Q's and A's.

### Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- No updates for today.

### NPDES

- Continue to coordinate with 6WQ, 6EN, 6RC, and HQ staff on NPDES permitting questions asked by BP regarding oil recovery and relief well operations.
- NPDES Permits and TMDLs Branch stands ready to provide technical assistance as needed.